

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
4 March 2004 (04.03.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/018881 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **F04D 29/14**,  
F16J 15/34, F16C 33/78

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(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2003/002796

(22) International Filing Date: 15 July 2003 (15.07.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
2002/6705 21 August 2002 (21.08.2002) ZA  
2003/2137 17 March 2003 (17.03.2003) ZA

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,  
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,  
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,  
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,  
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,  
MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC,  
SD, SE, SG, SK, SI, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,  
UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,  
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SI, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),  
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),  
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,  
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,  
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,  
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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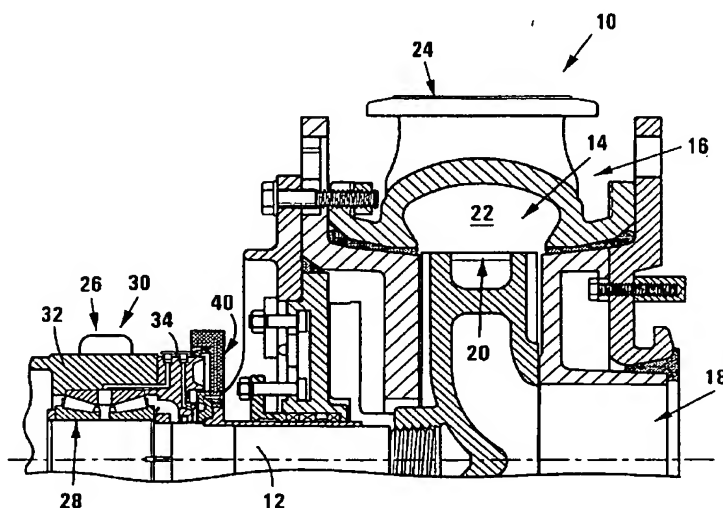
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Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SHIELDING A BEARING AND SEAL ASSEMBLY FROM UNDESIRABLE MATTER



(57) Abstract: A rotary pump includes an impeller mounted on a shaft (12) supported for rotation in bearings. A bearing and bearing casing assembly (26) proximate the impeller is prone to ingress of undesirable matter. A shield assembly (40) includes the shaft (12) and a shield (40) rotatable with the shaft and positioned intermediate the impeller and the bearing assembly (26). The shield comprises an integral, moulded, disc (42) and composite rim (44), which includes a lip (50) having an inwardly proud beading (52) normally touching an outer periphery (34.1) of the bearing assembly. A cowl (48) surrounds the lip with clearance when the shaft (12) rotates. The beading (52) dilates under centrifugal force to provide running clearance.

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